

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of June 11, 2008 is gratefully acknowledged.

The objection to the drawing is noted. A REPLACEMENT SHEET is being submitted herewith to overcome the noted objection.

The rejection of claims 8-11 under 35 USC 102(b) by Yamamoto et al., and the indication that claims 12-14 contain allowable subject matter are noted.

Because Yamamoto et al. does not teach, it is respectfully submitted a pressure differential apparatus wherein the overload membrane is not deflectable by high-pressure-side overloads, the rejection based upon 35 USC 102(b) is respectfully traversed.

As can be seen from Fig. 1 of Yamamoto et al., the overload membrane 4 separates a high-pressure chamber portion 5 from a low-pressure chamber portion 6, and the overload membrane 4 can be deflected in both directions; in particular, it can be used towards the left-hand side of the drawing. This means that the overload membrane is clearly deflectable by high-pressure-side overloads.

Accordingly, claim 8 has been combined with claim 10 in claim 8, as amended to specify this feature.

The noted amendment, notwithstanding, it should be noted that claim 8, unamended, is also not anticipated by Yamamoto et al., because, for one thing, Yamamoto et al. does not teach a low pressure chamber portion with an essentially convex membrane bed against which the overload membrane lies in a rest position.

As amended, claims 8, 9 and 11-14 are in condition for allowance, along with new claim 15, which contains the subject matter of claims 8 (unamended) and 12 (indicated as allowable).

A REPLACEMENT SHEET for the Fig. Is also attached.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and claims 8, 9 and 11-15 found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

Date: September 11, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felix J. D'Ambrosio', written in a cursive style.

Felix J. D'Ambrosio
Attorney for Applicant
Registration Number 25,721

Customer Number *23364*
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

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